ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60610 PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 2879

In re application of

Hiroaki NASU, et al.

Appln. No. 09/645,599

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Filed: August 25, 2000

For: SPARK PLUG AND PRODUCING METHOD THEREFOR

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a

counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20037-3213

Telephone: (202) 293-7060 Facsimile: (202) 293-7860 Date: January 22, 2001

Registration No. 23,063

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the corresponding Communications from a Foreign Patent Office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/645,599

request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a Statement

can be made, a Statement is submitted herewith.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such

document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any

listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Mexic

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